

S. Just Policy

~~SECRET~~

December 17th, 1959

COCOM Document No. 3716.01/2

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

ITEM 1601 - ANTI-FRICTION BEARINGS

December 14th and 16th 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Documents Nos. 3700.6 and .8, 3716.00/1, 3716.01/1 and 2, W.P.1601/1 and Export/7.

Proposed Part (b)(2) 1. In opening the third round of discussion, the CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that all Delegations had agreed to the heading and part (1) of the Italian proposal as set out in paragraph 2 of COCOM Document No. 3716.01/1. On part (2) of that proposal, he invited the United Kingdom Delegate to express the further views of his authorities.

2. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate stated that his authorities acknowledged that as the wording in question met the criteria it would be reasonable to expect every Delegation to agree to it. After conceding this point, however, they wished to explain that Item 1601 was already extremely complicated and difficult for licensing officers, who viewed with alarm the further problems which would be created if all tapered roller, spherical roller and thrust roller bearings had to be subjected to the provisions of the Export Licensing Order (from which they were now exempt unless above 400mm.). This would involve the examination of every single one of the very great number of export applications received, in order to discover whether one or two of the bearings listed met this particular specification. The Delegate therefore asked for the indulgence of the Committee as regards this particular formula, in the hope of finding another text which would simplify matters for the United Kingdom and might meet with unanimous approval.

3. The BELGIAN Delegate stated that he would join the majority view on part (b)(2).

4. The CHAIRMAN asked whether Delegations could accept the change of cut-off in part (b)(1) without the condition set out in part (b)(2).

5. The GERMAN Delegate reminded the Committee that, under the current definition, tapered roller, spherical roller and thrust roller bearings with bore diameters below 400 mm. were exempt from embargo even if they had the special characteristics listed in the proposed new part (b)(2). Only those in the range between 400 mm. and 500 mm. would be affected by this new text.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

- 2 -

GOCOM Document No. 3716.01/3

6. The UNITED STATES Delegate did not understand why the problem of administration should be so burdensome or difficult, and in particular asked how the United Kingdom and other authorities were administering the control of bearings as specialised components for Munitions List items. The United States Delegate nevertheless suggested that the Committee might consider as a compromise the insertion in the proposed part (b)(2) of words to make it clear that it would apply only to bearings with bore diameters in the area from over 400 mm. up to and including 500 mm.
7. The ITALIAN Delegate expressed the view that the United States Delegation's proposal would be acceptable to his authorities.
8. The CHAIRMAN ruled that if, at the resumption of discussion, the United Kingdom Delegation could not see their way to accept the special control envisaged under part (b)(2) in the case of the bearings described in paragraph 6 above, then no change would be made in the current definition.
9. The COMMITTEE agreed to resume discussion on the 16th December.
10. On the 16th December the FRENCH Delegate reminded the Committee that he had supported the Italian proposal from the outset. In the view of French experts, the 500 mm. cut-off was reasonable as it maintained under embargo only bearings used for missiles etc. The French Delegation would be able also to accept an embargo in the area from over 400 mm. up to and including 500 mm. for the special bearings described in the proposed sub-item (b)(2).
11. The GERMAN and UNITED KINGDOM Delegates stated that they were prepared to accept sub-item (b)(2) if it applied only to bearings in the 400 - 500 mm. range.
12. The CHAIRMAN proposed the insertion in (b)(2) of the words "with bore diameter above 400 mm."
13. This having been accepted, the Chairman noted that the Italian proposal had been accepted unanimously by all Delegations.
14. The ITALIAN Delegate expressed his appreciation to the Committee.

CONCLUSION: The COMMITTEE agreed to change the definition of Item 1601(b) to read as follows:

- "(b) Tapered roller, spherical roller and thrust roller bearings, the following:
- (1) With bore diameter above 500 mm. (19.685 inches);
 - (2) Special bearings with bore diameter above 400 mm. for military applications which differ substantially in design from normal bearings to provide superior operating characteristics."

SECRET